

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The below listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Withdrawn) A method of increasing the number of M2 receptors in the brain of an animal, including a human animal, comprising administering to said animal an effective dose of smilagenin.

2. (Withdrawn) A method of increasing cognitive function, comprising administering to said mammal an effective dose of smilagenin.

3. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 2 wherein said effective dose comprises a dose sufficient to expose receptors to a concentration of smilagenin of approximately 10^{-6} M.

4. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 3, which comprises administering said effective dose via a foodstuff or beverage.

5. (Original) A method of treatment of Parkinson's disease in a human, which comprises administering to said human an effective dose of smilagenin.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 5, which comprises administering a foodstuff or beverage containing an effective dose of smilagenin.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 6, wherein smilagenin is administered in the form of a pharmaceutical composition.

8. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein smilagenin is administered in the form of a pharmaceutically effective amount of smilagenin in the form of an extract derived from a plant of the genus Smilax, Asparagus, Anemarrhena, Yucca or Agave.